

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15

ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 DRC-01 /146 W

----- 075298

R 081115Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4100

INFO CJCS

SECDEF

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC

COMUSSAG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 13666

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, CB

SUBJECT: STATUS OF CONSCRIPTION PROGRAM

REF: PHNOM PENH 13460

1. SUMMARY: DESPITE A DECISION OF CONSCRIPTION OFFICIALS CALLING FOR NEW MEASURES TO STIMULATE THE NUMBER OF RECRUITS THE DAILY AVERAGE OF ACCESSIONS OVER THE PAST WEEK FELL TO 78. AS A RESULT SEVERAL PHNOM PENH KHAND CHIEFS ARE CALLING MEETINGS OF LOWER LEVEL OFFICIALS IN AN EFFORT TO IMPROVE PERFORMANCE. KHAND CHIEFS ALSO FEEL THAT A STRONGER EFFORT TO APPREHEND DRAFT EVADERS IS NECESSARY. END SUMMARY.

2. BY CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON DECEMBER 7 THE FANK RECEPTION CENTER HAD RECEIVED A TOTAL OF 10,675 NEW RECRUITS (9352 VOLUNTEERS AND 1323 CONSCRIPTS). ON ONLY TWO OF THE PAST SEVEN DAYS DID THE NUMBER OF RECRUITS EXCEED 100, WHILE LOWS OF 23 AND 39 WERE LOGGED ON TWO OTHER OCCASIONS. CONFIDENTIAL

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3. MEASURES TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION (AGREED UPON AT A DECEMBER 3 MEETING CALLED BY CONSCRIPTION CHIEF OF STAFF THAPPANA NGINN) HAVE YET TO PRODUCE ANY SIGNIFICANT EFFECT. EMBASSY OFFICERS VISITING THE THREE LARGEST KHANDS IN PHNOM PENH FOUND THAT ACTION HAD BEEN TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT THE PLAN CALLING FOR CHIEFS OF 10-HOUSE UNITS TO BRING IN TWO RECRUITS EACH BUT THAT ONLY A VERY FEW HAVE ACTUALLY DONE SO THUS FAR. IN ORDER TO EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS AND OTHER ASPECTS OF THE CONSCRIPTION PROBLEM THE KHAND CHIEFS OF DECHO (PHNOM PENH'S LARGEST) AND SEREIRATH HAVE CALLED MEETINGS OF LOW LEVEL OFFICIALS FOR TODAY AND EARLY NEXT WEEK. ALL KHAND CHIEFS VISITED, HOWEVER, POINTED TO THE FAILURE OF ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS TO AUTHORIZE MEASURES TO ROUND UP DRAFT EVADERS AS THE PRINCIPAL REASON FOR THE DECLINE IN RECRUITS. MANY OF THESE EVADERS HAVE FLED TO BATTAMBANG, PAILIN AND OTHER PROVINCES IN ORDER TO ESCAPE THE DRAFT, THE OFFICIALS CLAIM, AND A NATIONWIDE EFFORT TO APPREHEND THEM IS THEREFORE NECESSARY. STRONGER ENFORCEMENT MEASURE ARE PART OF THE PACKAGE WHICH WAS AGREED UPON ON DECEMBER 3.

4. MEANWHILE THE LOCAL PRESS REPORTS THAT A LT. PENH SETH OF THE FANK 3RD BUREAU HAS BEEN REDUCED TO THE RANK OF 2ND LT BY THE COUNCIL OF WAR FOR HAVING ISSUED A FICTITIOUS MILITARY ID CARD TO A DRAFT-EVADER.
ENDERS

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NNN

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